

To: Hestmark, Martin[Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov]
From: Benevento, Douglas
Sent: Fri 12/15/2017 8:03:55 PM
Subject: FW: Westside Priority Soils in Butte and EPA's seeming disdain for meaningful public involvement. How this fiasco has hurt your and the agency's reputation.

From: John Ray [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 10:25 AM
To: Benevento, Douglas <benevento.douglas@epa.gov>
Cc: Moler, Robert <Moler.Robert@epa.gov>; Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>; John Ray [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Subject: Westside Priority Soils in Butte and EPA's seeming disdain for meaningful public involvement. How this fiasco has hurt your and the agency's reputation.

Earlier I sent you an email about the article in today's Montana Standard that informed the public that the EPA no longer considers the area of Butte known as the Flat (the area south of Front Street) as part of Westside Priority Soils OU.

That decision, to be blunt, has destroyed what little credibility EPA had in Butte.

Your recent visits to Butte and Anaconda were well received and rekindled a hope that perhaps the agencies would be responsive to citizens. You established a great deal of personal credibility. That credibility has been tarnished by this decision to exclude the Flat.

For the past several months both directly stated and clearly intimated to the public that the EPA felt that the cleanup of Butte would be seriously incomplete if the Flats were not addressed.

Nikia Greene had volunteered to be RPM, a preliminary assessment of Westside Soils in the Flat was begun, etc.

Now suddenly, EPA says that the Flat area is no longer part of Westside Priority Soils. I am not going to repeat all of the arguments I made in my earlier email.

Inconsistency destroys trust. Misinforming the public destroys trust.

I am sending this directly to you because I too hoped that under your leadership a new day had dawned so to speak regarding the Butte cleanup.

I no longer believe that.

Once again EPA has shown a contempt for the public and for meaningful public involvement. This is not just me. I have talked to others today who feel the same way.

For many of us, the goodwill you established is gone.

I just wanted you to know that.

Dr. John W. Ray